

**Alabama Department of Mental Health and
Mental Retardation**

**Functional Analysis
&
Records Disposition Authority**

**Presented to the
State Records Commission
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Functional and Organizational Analysis of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Sources of Information

Representatives of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Code of Alabama 1975, Section 22-50-1 through 22-50-91
Alabama Administrative Code, Chapters 580-1-1 through 580-9-47
Alabama Government Manual (2002), page 356
Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Annual Reports
Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Audit Reports
Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Obsolete Records Retention
Schedules -- No. 954 to 961 (created in 1982), S-65-1 to S-65-10 (created 1990-1995)
Holdings of the Department of Archives and History for Alabama Department of Mental Health and
Mental Retardation
Government Records Division, State Agency Files (1985-ongoing)
Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation website

Historical Context

The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation was created by Legislative Act 881 in 1965, but delivery of mental health services in Alabama actually predates the Civil War. In the winter of 1852, the Alabama Legislature authorized the construction of a hospital in Tuscaloosa, later to be known as Bryce Hospital in honor of its first superintendent, Dr. Peter Bryce. Bryce Hospital received its first patient, a soldier from Fort Morgan, in 1861. In 1895, U. S. Congress turned over Mt. Vernon barracks to Alabama for public use. In 1899, the Alabama Legislature decided to use Mt. Vernon to treat non-whites who were deemed insane. It was renovated for use as a hospital, and in 1919 was named for Dr. J. T. Searcy who had succeeded Dr. Bryce as superintendent in Tuscaloosa. When Dr. Searcy resigned in 1919, Dr. W. D. Partlow, who had been assistant superintendent at Bryce since 1908, was appointed to the top position over both hospitals. When the third state mental health hospital was established in 1923, it was named in Dr. Partlow's honor.

The outpatient clinic approach in Alabama began in 1949, when the first outpatients were seen and treated in the Division of Mental Hygiene (of the Alabama Department of Public Health) Clinic at Hillman in Birmingham's Medical Center. Since then, sixteen clinics and centers have been developed.

In 1963, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 88-164 to provide for a nationwide analysis of the human and economic problems of mental illness. It was two years later, after the Division of Mental Health Planning was established in the Alabama Department of Public Health, that 354 civic leaders

from across the state began meeting to compile information for a mental health plan. Financed by a federal grant, the planning project was directed toward the development of a comprehensive community mental health service for all people. Finally, in 1965, Legislative Act 881 carried out a recommendation of the Alabama Mental Health Plan for a centralized Department of Mental Health governed by a State Mental Health Board. In 1984, the Legislature redesignated the Department of Mental Health as the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The act also created a new advisory Board of Trustees and eliminated the Alabama Mental Health Board.

Agency Organization

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Board of Trustees is an advisory body that coordinates activities of the department and acquaints the public with the needs and services of the department. The board is composed of sixteen members, including the governor, the commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and twelve members appointed by the governor, one from each of the seven congressional districts and five from the state at large. One of the at large positions is selected from nominations of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Alabama and one from nominations offered by the Mental Health Association of Alabama. The governor serves as the chairman with the commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as the secretary. The board meets quarterly with a simple majority constituting a quorum. Members serve three-year terms, with the limitation that no trustee serve more than three consecutive terms.

The department is administered by a commissioner, who is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the governor. The commissioner appoints four associate commissioners and may set up various divisions/office units within the department as needed. In addition to the department's central office in Montgomery, the department also operates seven state-owned mental illness hospitals and one state-owned mental retardation development center. An organizational chart is attached.

Agency Function and Subfunctions

The mandated function of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is to provide mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services for the people of Alabama. It is one of the agencies responsible for performing the Client Services function of Alabama government. In performance of its mandated function, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation may engage in the following subfunctions:

- **Promulgating Rules and Regulations.** The agency is authorized, under Code of Alabama, Section 22-50-11, to “set up state plans for the purpose of controlling and treating any and all forms of mental illness and mental retardation.” The agency is also responsible for “establishing and promulgating rules, policies, orders, and regulations providing details of carrying out its duties and responsibilities, including bylaws for its own organization, government, and procedures.”

- **Certifying Facilities.** Code of Alabama, Section 22-50-17 authorizes the agency to inspect any institution/facility providing care or treatment for people suffering from mental illness, mental retardation, or substance abuse. The agency certifies such institutions/facilities.
- **Advocating Rights and Educating Public.** The agency provides a system of rights protection for consumers of mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse treatment services in Alabama. Advocacy services may include system advocacy services (i.e. rights awareness training, inter-agency collaborations, and rights compliance monitoring activities) and individual advocacy services (i.e. information and referral services, and complaint resolution services). The population served includes residents of all of the agency operated facilities, as well as individuals served in community programs certified by the agency. In addition, staff members prepare and disseminate public educational and press information about the agency's initiatives, services, and other related activities.
- **Caring and Treating Mental Illness, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse.** The agency provides a comprehensive system of outpatient and residential services for adults/children with mental illness, mental retardation, or substance abuse. Consumers receive services through both agency operated facilities and certified community providers. In addition to making services available to individual clients, the agency's service delivery system provides continuity of service and support for clients and their families. Service activities may include, but are not limited to, developing and implementing new initiatives/programs; supervising operations of state-owned facilities; conducting and assisting at training sessions for service providers, other government entities, and representatives of various advocacy organizations; handling consumer complaints; providing technical assistance to service providers; coordinating inter-agency collaborations; applying for outside funding; collecting and analyzing data; researching and assessing needs; monitoring performance of community providers; and sponsoring consumer events.
- **Investigating.** The department investigates criminal violations that occur within the department and prosecutes when applicable.
- **Serving.** In accordance with U.S. Public Law 106-402 (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000), the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation serves as the designated state agency for the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities. Members of the council, appointed by the governor, consist of consumers, representatives from state and local agencies, and other non-profit groups. The Council oversees activities in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change.

- **Administering Internal Operations.** A significant portion of the agency's work includes general administrative, financial, and personnel activities performed to support the programmatic areas of the agency.

Managing the Agency: Activities include internal office management work common to most government agencies such as corresponding and communicating; scheduling; meeting; documenting policy and procedures; reporting; litigating; drafting, promoting, or tracking legislation; publicizing and providing information; managing records; and managing information systems and technology.

Managing Finances: Activities include budgeting (preparing and reviewing a budget package, submitting the budget package to the state Finance Department; documenting amendments and performance of the budget); purchasing (requisitioning and purchasing supplies and equipment, receipting and invoicing for goods, and authorizing payment for products received); accounting for the expenditure, encumbrance, disbursement, and reconciliation of funds within the agency's budget through a uniform system of accounting and reporting; authorizing travel; contracting with companies or individuals; bidding for products and services; assisting in the audit process; investing; and issuing bonds.

Managing Human Resources: Activities involved in managing human resources may include the following: recruiting and hiring eligible individuals to fill vacant positions within the agency; providing compensation and benefits to employees; supervising employees (evaluating performance, disciplining, granting leave, and monitoring the accumulation of leave); and providing training and continuing education for employees.

Managing Properties, Facilities, and Resources: Activities involved in managing properties, facilities, and resources may include the following: inventorying and accounting for non-consumable property and reporting property information to the appropriate authority; constructing buildings and facilities; leasing and/or renting offices or facilities; providing for security and/or insurance for property; and assigning, inspecting, and maintaining agency property, including vehicles.

Analysis of Record Keeping System and Records Appraisal of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Agency Record Keeping System

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation currently operates a hybrid record keeping system composed of paper-based, computer, and micrographic systems.

Computer Systems: The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (DMH/MR) Bureau of Data Management currently operates an in-house data center. This data center houses the department's server based applications and the telecommunications interface between DMH/MR and the State of Alabama Finance Department Information Services Division's (ISD) data center. ISD maintains and operates the IBM mainframe which supports many of DMH/MR's large applications as documented below. The computer record keeping system consists of various electronic files maintained on tape, disk, and optical storage media.

The DMH/MR currently utilizes the following State of Alabama standard applications that reside on the ISD mainframe in support of the DMH/MR business processes: The State of Alabama's Financial Resource Management System (FRMS) is currently being utilized to support the DMH/MR operations at its Central Office, five Regional MR Offices, and eight operational facilities. The FRMS is comprised of the Governmental Human Resource System (GHRM - Personnel & Payroll), Advantage Financial System (AFNS - Financial) and the Mental Health State-Wide Network Automated Purchasing System (MHSNAP - Purchasing).

The DMH/MR has developed and maintains the following applications that reside on the ISD mainframe in support of the DMH/MR business processes: The Comprehensive Alabama Mental Health and Mental Retardation Information System (CARES - Clinical) provides DMH/MR management with the ability to track patient/client information for the entire period of the confinement. CARES includes demographics, diagnoses, incident reporting, personal fund accounting, and census information, and has the ability to formulate user defined reports using a menu system. Additional mainframe systems include the Property Inventory System, Warehouse Inventory, Resident/Patient Payroll, and the Medicaid Explanation of Payments Interface.

The DMH/MR has developed and maintains the following applications that reside on the DMH/MR file servers: The Alabama Community Service Information System (ACSIS), which enables the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC's) to report data into the DMH/MR Central Data Repository (CDR); the OBRA Level 1 and 2 for nursing home admissions; MI Bed Vacancy Reservation System; MR Incident Prevention Management System (IPMS); MR Waiting List System; Contract Tracking System; Life Safety Certification System; and Substance Abuse Stand-alone

Uniform Data System (SASUDS) and Mental Retardation Stand-alone Uniform Data System (MRSUDS). Additional smaller systems are in development and reside on DMH/MR servers. Records created by these systems are listed with other records in the functional areas and are not listed by the name of the system.

The DMH/MR has purchased a new pharmacy system (WORx) that currently resides on a COMPAQ File Server maintained in the DMH/MR Data Center. WORx supports all of the five operational DMH/MR Pharmacies currently supporting the eight DMH/MR facilities. The operational facilities having pharmacies include Bryce Hospital, Searcy Hospital, Greil Hospital, North Alabama Regional Hospital, and the W. D Partlow Developmental Center. The Bryce Hospital Pharmacy also supports the A.M. Kidd Nursing Facility, the Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility, and the Harper Geriatric Hospital.

Mainframe databases and associated files are routinely backed up to cartridges on a schedule that includes daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually as required. Copies of critical data are maintained off-site at the Alternate ISD Data Center and are rotated daily/weekly as required. Information stored on file and database servers are backed up to network tape/cartridge backup systems and copies are maintained off-site at the Primary ISD Data Center and are rotated daily.

Micrographics Systems: W. D Partlow Developmental Center microfilms the medical records of individuals who have and do live there more than twenty years. Because of the size of the records, microfilming reduces the need for storage of paper.

Records Appraisal

The following is a discussion of the two major categories of records created and/or maintained by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation: Temporary Records and Permanent Records.

I. Temporary Records. Temporary Records should be held for what is considered to be their active life and disposed of once all their fiscal, legal, and administrative requirements have been met. Some of the temporary records created by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation are discussed below:

- **Advocacy Intakes.** An advocacy intake is a form completed by advocates to document all requests for advocacy service. It is usually one or two pages long, but can have a number of related documents attached. It is the official documentation that a request for advocacy services was received, and how the request was handled. It is kept six years in the event there are questions regarding how a request was addressed.
- **Advocacy Investigation Reports.** These are the official reports of investigations conducted by Advocacy Services. They are useful during future investigations by the department because they can show repeated occurrences/incidents at a facility as well as numerous

- complaints by the same individual. The recommended retention period is fifteen years.
- **Advocacy Services Issues Files.** These files are divided by division involved (Illness, Retardation, Substance Abuse) and are only needed for reference for six years.

II. Permanent Records. The Government Records Division recommends the following records as permanent.

Promulgating Rules and Regulations

- **Administrative Procedure Rules Filings.** Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-22-6, mandates that each state agency should keep a permanent register of its rules and/or regulations promulgated, whether the original or a revision, and open them to public inspection. (RDA pg. 3-2)
- **Mental Health Policy and Procedure Documents.** The department's policies and procedures document how the department interacts with the public and clients. These policies and procedures are based in part on the department's administrative code entry. (RDA pg. 3-2) **(Bibliographic Title: Policies and Procedures)**

Certifying Facilities

- **Certification Team Reports.** These records document the actions of the certification team during their meetings. Because decisions regarding certification may be made at the meetings, reports of the meetings are necessary to document policy and actions of the team. (RDA pg. 3-2) **(Bibliographic Title: Certification Team Reports)**
- **Community Provider Information (Service data only).** This information is sent in electronically and includes demographics on the recipients and details on the type, date, and amount of services provided. The agency has determined it will retain this information permanently in its offices. (RDA pg. 3-2)
- **Quality Enhancement, Performance Improvement, and Medical/Clinical Committee Minutes/Reports.** These records document the actions of the committees during their meetings. Because policy may be set, minutes/reports of the meetings are necessary to document policy and actions of the committees. (RDA pg. 3-3) **(Bibliographic Title: Meeting Minutes and Agendas of Committees; Reports)**
- **Performance Improvement Reports.** These records, which include Comparative Reports, Quarterly Reports, Root Cause Analyses, Annual Summaries, Death and Special Reviews, Death Reports, and Monthly Inpatient and Community Reports, are created to improve performance in the treatment of mental illness by the facilities. The reports document conditions and activities in the facilities and are necessary to track improvement and conditions over time. (RDA pg. 3-3) **(Bibliographic Title: Performance Improvement**

Reports)

Advocating Rights and Educating Public

- **Annual Advocacy Activity Reports.** These reports, which are compilations of the quarterly reports, provide the best summary documentation of the advocacy activities of the agency. Many times, information is found only in these reports. (RDA pg. 3-5) **(Bibliographic Title: Annual Advocacy Activity Reports)**
- **Advocacy Databases (not website database).** The Advocacy Division maintains several databases that are used to review and compare data from different time periods and different locations to create a picture of mental health care in the state. Information in the different databases includes, numbers and types of complaints and allegations, locations of client services, and information on visits and inspections. This information is important to the study of individual facilities and services as well as important to the study of mental health care in the state as a whole. The permanent databases were written by agency staff. The website database tracks statistics of users of the database and is not permanent. The information in the website database is to be kept for five years as it contains information on public interaction through the website that involves routine matters. (RDA pg. 3-6) **(Bibliographic Title: Advocacy Databases)**

Caring and Treating Mental Illness, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse

Permanent documentation of this subfunction can be found in some of the permanent records listed under Administering Internal Operations below.

Investigating

- **Investigative Records.** These records, which include investigation case books, case files, documentary evidence not contained in case files, investigation tapes, facility case file correspondence, cumulative sanction reports and correspondence, are necessary for use in solved and unsolved cases. According to the interpretations by the Alabama Supreme Court of Alabama law dealing with actions by mentally handicapped individuals in the state's control, there is no statute of limitations for such actions. As such, the agency maintains the investigative records in its offices for use in ongoing investigations and in the event new information comes to light in closed cases. The records will be necessary in both instances. (RDA pg. 3-11)

Serving

- **Meeting Minutes of the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities.** These records document the actions of the council during its meetings. Because policy may be set, minutes of the meetings are necessary to document policy and actions of the council. (RDA pg. 3-12) **(Bibliographic Title: Meeting Minutes of the Alabama Council for Developmental**

Disabilities)

- **Annual Reports of Council for Developmental Disabilities.** Annual reports provide the best summary documentation of the council. Many times, information is found only in these reports. (RDA pg. 3-12) **(Bibliographic Title: Annual Reports of Council for Developmental Disabilities)**

Administering Internal Operations

- **Administrative Files of the Commissioner.** These files consist primarily of correspondence and subject files of the commissioner. The subject files are the files of the head of the agency that contain information on such subjects as state agencies, projects, meetings, and non-state agencies. As department head, the commissioner sets policy and procedures for the department. The administrative files document the activities and decisions of the commissioner and/or the department. (RDA pg. 3-12) **(Bibliographic Title: Administrative Files)**
- **Minutes of the Board of Trustees.** These records are the core documentation of the board. In many instances these minutes are the only documentation of actions of the board. (RDA page 3-12) **(Bibliographic Title: Minutes of the Board of Trustees)**
- **Three Year Plan.** The Wyatt lawsuit was settled in January 2000 with implementation commencing October 2000. As the Wyatt settlement drew to a close, the department created the FY03-FY05 Strategic Plan that outlines the vision and direction of the department for the next three years. (RDA pg. 3-13) **(Bibliographic Title: Strategic Plan)**
- **Healthcare Worker Task Force Records.** Governor Siegelman appointed a broad based task force to address shortages of health care workers in Alabama. The Policy and Planning Office of Mental Health provided support to the task force, including the development of the final report. These records document the work of the task force. (RDA pg. 3-13) **(Bibliographic Title: Healthcare Worker Task Force Records)**
- **Deaf Services Task Force Records.** As part of the Bailey v. Sawyer Settlement Agreement, a task force was established to guide the implementation activities and to develop a plan for the provision of services to people with mental illness who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The records document those activities and include implementation schedules, minutes of meetings, and plans for services. (RDA pg. 3-13) **(Bibliographic Title: Deaf Services Task Force Records)**
- **Legal Case Files.** The Supreme Court of Alabama has interpreted Code of Alabama Section 6-2-8 as setting no statute of limitation on violations of rights against mentally disabled individuals. As such, the department requires its legal case files to be permanent in its offices. Some landmark cases, including Bailey, Wyatt, and Lynch, will be sent to Archives

and History. (RDA pg. 3-13) (**Bibliographic Title: Legal Case Files**)

- **Agenda and Minutes of External Committees, Policy Committee, Division Coordinating Committees/Subcommittees, and Management Steering Committee.** These records document the actions taken during meetings. Because decisions and actions regarding policy may be made at the meetings, minutes and agenda of the meetings are necessary to document policy and actions of the committees. (RDA pg. 3-14) (**Bibliographic Title: Meeting Minutes and Agendas of Committees**)
- **Annual Reports.** Annual reports provide the best summary documentation of the agency. Many times, information is found only in the annual reports. (RDA pg. 3-14) (**Bibliographic Title: State Publications**)
- **Publicity and Informational Materials** (includes Star Brochure, Media Guide, Brochures, Newsletters, Press Releases, and DMH/MR Produced Videos) These publications document activities of the department and show how the department views its function. (RDA page 3-16) (**Bibliographic Title: State Publications**)
- **Website.** The department maintains a website at www.mh.state.al.us. Information on the website includes, but is not limited to, description of programs/service, listings of services by counties, and website links. The agency needs to preserve a complete copy of its website annually or as often as significant changes are made. (RDA page 3-16) (**Bibliographic Title: Website**)
- **Grant Project Final Narrative Reports.** These files are the final narrative reports of the grants managed by the department. They are necessary to document the activities of the department. (RDA page 3-16) (**Bibliographic Title: Grant Project Final Narrative Reports**)
- **Original bid records maintained by the department for contracts over \$7500.** The Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-16-24, requires that “all original bids together with all documents pertaining to the award of the contract shall be retained and made a part of the permanent file or records and shall be open to public inspection.” These files should be maintained in the agency’s office. (RDA page 3-17)
- **Inventory Lists.** The Code of Alabama 1975, Section 36-16-8[1] requires that “All property managers shall keep at all times in their files a copy of all inventories submitted to the Property Inventory Control Division, and the copies shall be subject to examination by any and all state auditors or employees of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.” These files need to be maintained in the agency’s office. (RDA page 3-21)
- **Underground Storage Tank Files.** The 1989 federal environmental law requires that all underground storage tanks meet standards or be removed or closed. The Alabama

Department of Environmental Management is responsible for implementing this law. The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation has facilities that had/have underground tanks. The records of the removal or closure of these tanks are necessary to document compliance with the federal law. Three of the facilities had soil and/or water contamination from the tanks. The records of these sites are necessary for on-going monitoring by ADEM and for use by the department. (RDA page 3-22)

- **Mental Health Finance Authority Bond Fund Construction Files.** These records document the construction activities associated with the Mental Health Finance Authority Bond Fund. The files are necessary to document the activities. (RDA page 3-22)
(Bibliographic Title: Mental Health Finance Authority Bond Fund Construction Files)

Permanent Records List

Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Promulgating Rules and Regulations

1. Administrative Procedure Rules Filings*
2. Mental Health Policy and Procedure Documents

Certifying Facilities

1. Certification Team Reports
2. Community Provider Information (service data only) *
3. Quality Enhancement, Performance Improvement and Medical/Clinical Committee Minutes/Reports
4. Performance Improvement Reports

Advocating Rights and Educating Public

1. Annual Advocacy Activity Reports
2. Advocacy Databases (not website database)

Investigating

1. Investigative Records*

Serving

1. Meeting Minutes of the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities
2. Five Year State Plans
3. Annual Reports of Council for Developmental Disabilities

Administering Internal Operations

1. Administrative Files of the Commissioner
2. Minutes of the Board of Trustees
3. Three Year Plan
4. Healthcare Worker Task Force Records
5. Deaf Services Task Force Records
6. Legal Case Files
7. Agenda and Minutes of External Committees, Policy Committee, Division Coordinating Committees/Subcommittees, and Management Steering Committee
8. Annual Reports

9. Publicity and Informational Materials
10. Website
11. Grant Project Final Narrative Reports
12. Original Bid Records Maintained by The Department For Contracts Over \$7500*
13. Inventory Lists*
14. Underground Storage Tank Files*
15. Land Use Records
16. Mental Health Finance Authority Bond Fund Construction Files

*indicates records that ADAH anticipates will remain in the care and custody of the creating agency. ADAH staff members are available to work with agency staff in determining the best location and storage conditions for the long-term care and maintenance of permanent records.

Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Records Disposition Authority

This Records Disposition Authority (RDA) is issued by the State Records Commission under the authority granted by the Code of Alabama 1975, Sections 41-13-5 and 41-13-20 through 21. It was compiled by the Government Records Division, Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), which serves as the commission's staff, in cooperation with representatives of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The RDA lists records created and maintained by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in carrying out its mandated functions and activities. It establishes retention periods and disposition instructions for those records and provides the legal authority for the agency to implement records destruction.

Alabama law required public officials to create and maintain records that document the business of their offices. These records must be protected from "mutilation, loss, or destruction," so that they may be transferred to an official's successor in office and made available to members of the public. Records must also be kept in accordance with auditing standards approved by the Examiners of Public Accounts (Code of Alabama 1975, Sections 36-12-2, 36-12-4, and 41-5-23). For assistance in implementing this RDA or for advice on records disposition or other records management concerns, contact the ADAH Government Records Division at (334) 242-4452.

Explanation of Records Requirements

- This RDA supersedes any previous records disposition schedules governing the retention of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Copies of superseded schedules/RDAs are no longer valid and may not be used for records disposition.
- This RDA establishes retention and disposition instructions for records listed below, regardless of the medium on which those records may be kept. Electronic mail, for example, is a communications tool that may record permanent or temporary information. As for records in any other format, the retention periods for e-mail records are governed by the requirements of the subfunctions to which the records belong.
- Certain other record- like materials are not actually regarded as official records and may be disposed of under this RDA. Such materials include: (1) duplicate record copies that do not require official action, so long as the creating office maintains the original record for the period required; (2) catalogs, trade journals, and other publications received that required no action and do not document government activities; (3) stocks of blank stationery, blank forms, or other surplus materials that are not subject to audit and have become obsolete; (4) transitory records, which are temporary records created for short-term internal purposes that may include, but are not limited to, telephone call-back messages; drafts of ordinary

documents not needed for their evidential value; copies of material sent for information purposes but not needed by the receiving office for future business; and internal communications about social activities. They may be disposed of without documentation of destruction.

- Any record created prior to 1930 shall be regarded as permanent unless there is a specific action by the State Records Commission to authorize its destruction.
- Any record created by the agency or any of its facilities but not listed in this RDA may not be destroyed (including Patient Case Files).

Records Disposition Requirements

This section of the RDA is arranged by subfunctions of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and lists the groups of records created and/or maintained by the agency as a result of activities and transactions performed in carrying out these subfunctions. The agency may submit requests to revise specific records disposition requirements to the State Records Commission for consideration at its regular quarterly meetings.

■ Promulgating Rules and Regulations

Administrative Code Books

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE RULES FILINGS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in office.

MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

■ Certifying Facilities

CERTIFICATION TEAM REPORTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

COMMUNITY PROVIDER INFORMATION

SERVICE DATA

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in Office.

Other community provider information (not service data)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Comprehensive Alabama Mental Health and Mental Retardation Information System (CARES)
Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Community Provider Incident Reports, Follow-up Reports, NRI Facility Reports, Death Forms, and
Facility Investigation Abstracts/Disposition Pages

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Medicaid Enrollment Forms

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Special Incident/Abuse/Neglect Reports and Consumer/Family Member Complaints

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years or until close of investigation, whichever is longer.

Nursing Home Approvals

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT, PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT, AND MEDICAL/CLINICAL
COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Minutes of Performance Improvement Subcommittees and Special Projects/Task Forces

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT REPORTS (including NRI Comparative Reports, Quarterly
Reports, Root Cause Analyses, Annual Summaries, Death and Special Reviews, Death Reports, and
Monthly Inpatient and Community Reports)

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Title 19 and Joint Commission Accreditation Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) Survey Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.

■ **Advocating Rights and Educating Public.**

Advocacy/Facility/Community Correspondence

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Community Monitoring Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Community Certification Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Facility External Certification Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Access Line Phone Logs/Intakes

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Advocacy Investigation Appeal Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 15 years.

Advocacy Services Copy of Investigation Summaries from Bureau of Special Investigations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

BSI Case Status Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Advocacy Litigation Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after final disposition of case.

Mailouts to Advocates Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Advocate Staff Meeting Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Advocacy Intakes

Advocate Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Central Advocacy Office Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Monthly Advocacy Activity Reports

Advocate's Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Central Advocacy Office Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Quarterly Advocacy Activity Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

ANNUAL ADVOCACY ACTIVITY REPORTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Investigation Reports and Supporting Documents

Advocate's Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 15 years.

Central Advocacy Office Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Advocacy Special Incident Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Advocacy Incident Reports

Central Advocacy Office Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Commissioner's Office Copy

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Advocacy Special Reviews/Investigations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 15 years.

Facility Monitoring Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Community Program Monitoring Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Food Service Committee Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Abuse/Neglect Reports from Department of Human Resources

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Advocacy Services Issues Files (Illness, Retardation, Substance Abuse)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Treatment Court Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

ADVOCACY DATABASES

Databases tracking number and types of complaints and abuses

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Website database

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

■ **Caring and Treating Mental Illness, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse.**

Central Office

Nursing Home Referrals and Determinations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 month.

Patient Evaluations and Determinations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years from last evaluation or 6 months after death.

Patient Categorical Referrals

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Patient QA Reviews

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Patient Clinical Review Evaluations and Determinations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Nursing Home Placement Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Substance Abuse/Community Services Records

Vouchers, Contracts and Amendments, Budgets, Certification Files, Prevention Files, and Coordinating Subcommittee Minutes

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Waiting Lists and Methadone Waivers

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Mental Retardation Developmental Centers

Advocacy Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Sheltered Workshop Payroll Register

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Community Voucher Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Client Certifications and Admissions Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Client Financial Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Assessment Tracking Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Significant Behavior Sheets (SBS)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Client Dental Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years after death.

Reinforcer Order Form

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Nutritional Assessment

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Diet/Food Records (Fluid Intake Monitoring Form, Food Service Monitoring, Food Intake Record, Calorie Count, Supplement Record, Between Meal Snack, Monitoring Reports)
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Behavior Intervention Records

Minutes and IQ test booklets

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

ABS Booklets

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Health Services Records (nurse schedules, sign-in forms, supervisor rounds report, shift reports, infection control committee minutes, clinic log, infirmary admission log, staff competency verifications)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Drug Records

Pharmacy inventory, drug destruction, doctor's medication orders, medication fill lists, drug invoices, controlled drugs signature logs

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Quarterly drug regime reviews per client

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Program Services Records

Test Instruments

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until completion of next testing period.

Sheets data, assessment logs, process notes, schedules, meeting minutes, on-call reports, training records, and speed letters.

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Infirmary logs and medical information sheets

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 months.

Shoe clinic logs, called team meeting appointment books, active treatment reports, notification of IPP changes, rounds reports, sleep check sheets, toilet schedules, and activity schedules

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Records of persons centered planning meetings
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Residential Services Records

Log/shift report, bed-check sheets, client account sheets, coverage sheets, and supervisory rounds reports
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Disciplines
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years.

Developmental Center Policies and Procedures
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years after being superseded.

Developmental Center Policies and Procedures Memorandum
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Laboratory Records
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Laundry Reports
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 months.

Warehouse Issue Requests
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Maintenance and Housekeeping Records
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Mental Illness Hospitals

Death Reports and Associated Documentation

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Logs/Listings and Summaries/Reports (death book, patient listings, seclusion/restraint log, od log, sitter log, injury book, escort documentation, trip book, problem book, patient appointments, investigation logs, dually diagnosed patient listings, visitor logs, drug utilization summaries, utilization review reports and worksheets, original census reports, incident reports, statistical reports, consultant psychiatric reports, patient log books, and dental x-ray reports)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years.

Patient Plans

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years.

Patient Index Cards, Patient Check-out Cards, Dietary Patient Information Files, Recommitment Schedule, Waiting Lists, Initial Contact Sheets, Scheduling Logs, Calendars, Treatment Planning Conference Lists

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Patient File Cards, Collateral Files, Care Cards, Addressograph Cards, Nursing Unit Patient Cardex

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until discharge of patient.

Nursing Home Medical Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years after discharge of patient.

Central Sterile Log, Disease and Operation/Surgical Index, Emergency Department Specialty Call List, Physician Index

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Proficiency Testing Records, Laboratory Quality Control Records and Patient Test Records, Test Reports, Test Authorizations, Laboratory Work Orders, Pharmacy Inventory

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Communicable Disease Reports, Narcotics Inventory, Narcotics Dispensed, X-ray Films

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Narcotic Permit

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for life of permit.

Minutes of Meetings of Departments and Services, Minutes of Community Meetings on the Wards,
Seclusion and Restraint Data

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years following all surveys.

Training Reports and Records, Risk Analysis, Inventory of Assets, Equipment Inspection Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Police Reports, Fire Drills, Fire Investigations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years.

Peer Review and Credential Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years.

Performance Improvement Data Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 8 years.

Visitor Slips

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until entry of data and verification.

■ **Investigating**

INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS (Investigations Case Book, Case Files, Documentary Evidence Not
Contained In Case File, Investigation Tapes, Facility Case File Correspondence Not Contained In
Case Files, Cumulative Sanction Report Correspondence)

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in Office.

Assignment of Cases

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Criminal Cases Status Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Facility Disposition Sheets

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Investigative Inventory Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Comprehensive Security Survey

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Uniform Crime Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Appointment Documents/Agent in Charge

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

On Call List

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Bomb Threat Procedures

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years after superseded.

■ **Serving.**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

FIVE YEAR STATE PLANS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

■ **Administering Internal Operations**

Managing the Agency:

ADMINISTRATIVE FILES OF THE COMMISSIONER

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Correspondence of the Commissioner (if not filed in Administrative Files or with other records listed in RDA)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Directives of the Commissioner, Governor, and Finance Director

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year after being superseded.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Administrative Files of the Board of Trustees

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Administrative Reference Files (materials not created by the agency, collected and used only as reference sources of information)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

THREE YEAR PLAN

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

HEALTHCARE WORKER TASK FORCE RECORDS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

DEAF SERVICES TASK FORCE RECORDS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

LEGAL CASE FILES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Recovery Conference Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Support Group Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Drop-in Center Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Board of Trustees Appointment Letters

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the term expires.

Routine Correspondence (correspondence not listed elsewhere in RDA)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Document Tracking Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 months after creation of document it tracks.

Commissioner's Office Constituent Files

Files Documenting Adult Constituents

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Files Documenting Non-Adult Constituents

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created or until constituent reaches age of majority, whichever is longer.

Calendars (if document activity of employee)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Mailing Lists

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Telephone Logs

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Agenda and Minutes

AGENDA AND MINUTES OF EXTERNAL COMMITTEES, POLICY COMMITTEE, DIVISION COORDINATING COMMITTEES/SUBCOMMITTEES, AND MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Records documenting meetings of subsidiary committees within the agency

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Recordings of Meetings

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until the official minutes are adopted and signed.

Planning Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.

Reports

- a. ANNUAL REPORTS
Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.
- b. Records documenting reporting of activities by division or locale on a periodic basis
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.
- c. Other summarized statistical and/or narrative reports
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Guardianship Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 20 years after end of guardianship.

Attorney General Legal Opinions

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Legislative Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Board of Adjustment Claims

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Legal Analysis Records and Notice of Privacy Practices

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Gap Analyses and Privacy Risk and Security Assessments, and Remediation Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.

PUBLICITY AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS (includes Star Brochure, Media Guide, Brochures, Newsletters, Press Releases, Photographs, and DMH/MR Produced Videos)

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Internal Operating Procedures

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after superseded.

Records documenting the implementation of the agency's RDA (copies of transmittal forms to Archives or State Records Center, destruction notices or other evidence of obsolete records destroyed, annual reports to the State Records Commission)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Copy of RDA

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the RDA was superseded.

System Documentation (hardware/software manuals and diskettes, and warranties)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain documentation of former system 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the former hardware and software no longer exists in the agency and all permanent records have been migrated to a new system.

WEBSITE

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. PRESERVE A COMPLETE COPY OF WEBSITE ANNUALLY OR AS OFTEN AS SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE MADE.

Managing Finances:

Performance Based Budgeting Documents

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created and verify that the records are duplicated in the records sent to the Finance Director.

Indirect Cost Allocation Plan

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years after completion of the Federal/Single audit for the years involved and resolution of all audit issues.

Records Documenting Bond Interest Paid on State Bonds

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years after completion of the Federal/Single audit for the years involved and resolution of all audit issues.

Records documenting grants

- a. GRANT PROJECT FINAL NARRATIVE REPORTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

- b. Records documenting routine grant activities and compliance with grant program requirements

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years after the end of the grant.

Records documenting the preparation of a budget request package and reporting of the status of funds, requesting amendments of allotments, and reporting program performance

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting the requisitioning and purchasing of supplies and equipment, receipting and invoicing for goods, and authorizing payment for products

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting the bid process, including requests for proposals and unsuccessful responses

- a. ORIGINAL BID RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE AGENCY FOR CONTRACTS OVER \$7500

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in Office. (Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-16-24).

- b. Duplicate copies of bid (originals are maintained by the Finance Department - Division of Purchasing)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

- c. Other bid records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records of original entry such as journals, registers, and ledgers; and records of funds deposited outside the state treasury, including bank statements, deposit slips, and canceled checks

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting requests for authorization to travel on official business and other related materials, such as travel reimbursement forms and itineraries

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting contracts for services or personal property

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after expiration of contract. (Code of Alabama, Section 6-2-34).

Agency Audit Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Managing Human Resources:

Records documenting job recruitment

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Position Classification Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years after position is reclassified.

Records documenting job description

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.

Certification/Personnel Transaction Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting merit system registers

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Records documenting application for employment

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 2 years.

Black Applicant Report

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

Records documenting an employee's work history - generally maintained as a case file

- a. Records documenting work history of employees
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of employee from the agency.
- b. Records, located within divisions or bureaus, which document an employee's work history
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year after separation of employee from the agency.

Records documenting payroll (e.g. pre-payroll report, payroll check registers)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting payroll deduction authorizations (includes payroll drop cards)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

Records documenting payroll deductions for tax purposes (including Form 941)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting employees' daily and weekly work schedules

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting an employee's hours worked, leave earned, and leave taken (including time sheets)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting sick leave donations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Family Medical Leave Act Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

Random Drug Testing List

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

Records documenting final leave status

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

Records documenting verification of accuracy of State Personnel Department records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

Records documenting continuing education/training of agency employees

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of employee from the agency.

Continuing Education Certification and Approval Files and Training Program Files (includes HIPAA training)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Continuing Education Applications and Requests

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Training Plans

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Records documenting Equal Employment Opportunity (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29)

a. Compliance Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the close of the program year.

b. Complaint Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years from the date of resolution of the complaints.

State Employees Injury Compensation Trust Fund Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

Worker Compensation Injury and Settlement Reports

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 12 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the transaction occurred. (Code of Alabama 1975, Section 25-5-4).

Unemployment Compensation Quarterly Report

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

Managing Properties, Facilities, and Resources:

Communication System Records (not accounting)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

Real Property Leasing/Rental Records

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after termination of lease or rental agreement.

Records documenting reporting on real property

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records of Estates

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years.

INVENTORY LISTS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in Office. (Code of Alabama 1975, Section 36-16-8[1]).

Transfer of State Property Forms (SD-1) (Agency Copies)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Property Inventory Cards and/or Computer Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Receipts of Responsibility for Property

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until return of item to property manager.

Records documenting security of facilities

- a. Records documenting routine administrative functions of security
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.
- b. Records documenting incidents occurring on facilities
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after resolution of incident.

Records documenting maintenance of vehicle and equipment

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the property is removed from the inventory.

Records documenting use of the Motor Pool

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting use of parking (applications, parking permits, cards)

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Records documenting construction and/or repair of department buildings and property

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for life of structure.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FILES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

LAND USE RECORDS (Land Use Plan, County Files, and Property Files)

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

MENTAL HEALTH FINANCE AUTHORITY BOND FUND CONSTRUCTION FILES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Administrative Files of the Mental Health Finance Authority

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

Forestry Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years.

Requirement and Recommendations for Implementing the Records Disposition Authority

Under the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-13-21, “no state officer or agency head shall cause any state record to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without first obtaining approval of the State Records Commission.” This Records Disposition Authority constitutes authorization by the State Records Commission for the disposition of the records of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, hereafter referred to as the agency, as stipulated in this document.

One condition of this authorization is that the agency submit an annual Records Disposition Authority (RDA) Implementation Report on agency records management activities, including documentation of records destruction, to the State Records Commission in April of each year. In addition, the agency should make every effort to establish and maintain a quality record-keeping program through the following activities:

- The agency should designate a records liaison, who is responsible for: ensuring the development of quality record keeping systems that meet the business and legal needs of the agency, coordinating the transfer and destruction of records, ensuring that permanent records held on alternative storage media (such as microforms and digital imaging systems) are maintained in compliance with national and state standards, and ensuring the regular implementation of the agency’s approved RDA.
- Permanent records in the agency’s custody should be maintained under proper intellectual control and in an environment that will ensure their physical order and preservation.
- Destruction of temporary records, as authorized in this RDA, should occur agency--wide on a regular basis—for example, after the successful completion of an audit, at the end of an administration, or at the end of a fiscal year. Despite the RDA’s provisions, no record should be destroyed that is necessary to comply with requirements of the state Sunset Act, audit requirements, or any legal notice or subpoena.
- The agency should maintain full documentation of any computerized record-keeping system it employs. It should develop procedures for: (1) backing up all permanent records held in electronic format; (2) storing a back-up copy off-site; and (3) migrating all permanent records when the system is upgraded or replaced. If the agency chooses to maintain permanent records solely in electronic format, it is committed to funding any system upgrades and migration strategies necessary to ensure the records’ permanent preservation and accessibility.

The staff of the State Records Commission or the Examiners of Public Accounts may examine the condition of the permanent records maintained in the custody of the agency and inspect records destruction documentation. Government Records Division archivists are available to instruct the agency staff in RDA implementation and otherwise assist the agency in implementing its records management program.

The State Records Commission adopted this records disposition authority on April 29, 2005.

Edwin C. Bridges, Chairman, by Tracey J. Berezansky
State Records Commission

Date

John Houston, Acting Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Date